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century from that of the fourth, it clearly belongs with the former.

For purposes of comparison this statue and the cast of the one in Munich are exhibited for the present side by side in the Room of Recent Accessions. E. R.



DEPARTMENT OF EGYPTIAN ART

AT a meeting on October 15, the Trustees of the Museum voted to establish a Department of Egyptian Art, and appointed Mr. Albert Morton Lythgoe as its Curator. This action has secured for the Museum the services of a man who is exceptionally well equipped, both by training and experience, to develop its collections of Egyptian art systematically on lines which ought to make it rank permanently as the best in America. The Trustees have recognized that if such a development is to be undertaken, a beginning should be made at once, when excavations are being carried on with an activity which is not only unprecedented, but which means the exhaustion of the opportunity to secure works at first hand within a short period. It has been estimated that if the present activity continues, the soil of Egypt will be practically exhausted in about fifteen years, at the end of which time all the really fine things will have been absorbed by the great public collections, never to be released, and the second-rate objects will come into the market at constantly increasing prices, just as has happened with regard to Greek and Roman antiquities during the last fifty years. Fortunately the Metropolitan Museum is now in a position to enter the field actively, and arrangements have been made for a campaign of excavation to begin this winter in its interest, under Mr. Lythgoe's direction, the funds for the support of this expedition having been supplied by private generosity.

Mr. Lythgoe is a native of Providence, R. I. He graduated at Harvard Univer-

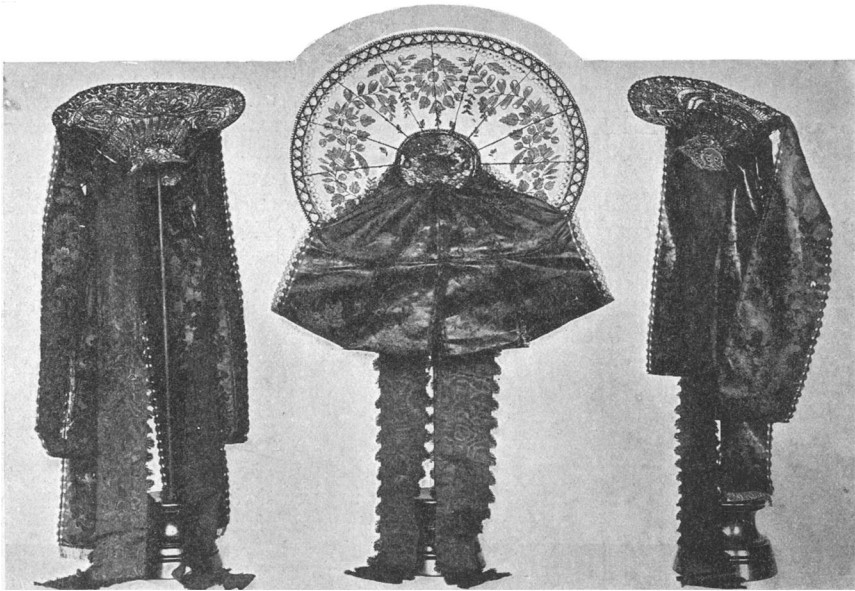
sity in 1892, and received the degree of A. M. there in 1897. He began his study of Egyptology under Professor Wiedemann of Bonn, and went later to Egypt, where from 1899 to 1904 he was associated with Dr. Reisner in charge of the excavations which were conducted under the patronage of Mrs. Phoebe Hearst for the University of California. More recently he has been Curator of the Department of Egyptian Art in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and instructor in Egyptology at Harvard University. Last winter he was field-director of an Egyptian expedition, conducted in the joint interest of these two institutions, which carried on excavations near the Pyramids of Gizeh with very satisfactory results. It is Mr. Lythgoe's intention to spend several weeks at present in work upon our Egyptian collection, and then to begin preparations for the Museum excavations, which will probably continue from the latter part of December through the spring. Owing to the conditions which now exist in Egypt, the benefit which the Museum may be expected to derive from these is of an extraordinary character; for, both in granting important concessions to foreign institutions for the purpose of scientific excavation, and in permitting the exportation of a large share of the sculptures and other antiquities yielded by such work, the Egyptian government shows a liberality not to be found in other ancient lands. Every opportunity, therefore, will be afforded on that side for carrying out the development of our Egyptian collection on a systematic and final basis, by the acquisition of material resulting from organized work of excavation, in which as complete a record as possible will be made, photographically and otherwise, of the conditions under which the objects were found, and from which they can be closely dated and assigned to their proper places in the collection.

It is also the intention of the Trustees to provide for the further development of the collection by the purchase, as opportunity affords, of material which will have a definite value in rounding out the collection on such sides as are not adequately represented. Reports of the progress of Mr. Lythgoe's work in Egypt will be made from time to time in the *Bulletin*, and it is hoped that the results of the excavations will be

published later in such full and satisfactory manner as they may require.

It is also expected that the additions which have been made to the Egyptian collection in recent years by the Egypt Exploration Fund of London, will be materially increased in the coming season in consequence of an important contribution, which has been made to it, in behalf of the Mu-

seum, for the completion of the excavations now being carried on by the Fund at Dêr el-Bahari. From the results already achieved there an important share of the sculptures and other material has recently been assigned to this Museum, and there is reason to hope that many other allotments may follow as the excavations progress.



PEASANT HEADDRESSES

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PRINCIPAL ACCESSIONS

A PORTRAIT BY HOLBEIN.—Among recent acquisitions in the Department of Paintings, perhaps the most important is that of a portrait by Hans Holbein. It represents a young man, apparently wealthy and fashionably dressed in the costume of the period. He wears a black vest, with a bright myrtle-green reverse, while on his left arm is thrown a crimson cloak, trimmed with dark-green braid. He has a velvet cap of black and scarlet, the points or tabs of which are finished with small gold bobbins. His left hand is covered with rings. On his first finger is a signet

ring with a coat-of-arms, which it may be hoped will ultimately lead to the identification of the sitter, though the indications are very difficult to decipher. His wrist rests upon the pommel of a sword of silver and gold ornamented with imitation Cufic script in the manner of Italian goldsmiths' work of the period. The background consists of the angle of a wall, round the top of which runs a frieze, in which Holbein has displayed his idea of an antique bas-relief, though that idea has diverged far enough from the original, and is probably derived from engravings of